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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Atty Dkt. 723-680

NISHIUMI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2778

Serial No. 09/227,350

Examiner:

Filed: **January 8, 1999**

Date: **May 15, 2001**

Title: **OPERATING DEVICE AND IMAGE
PROCESSING SYSTEM USING SAME**

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MAY 21 2001
Technology Center 2600

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. One copy of each of these references is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

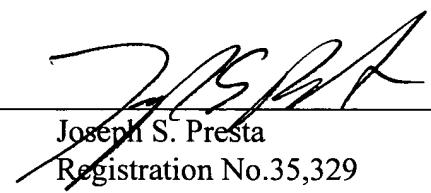
Attached is our check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). Please credit or debit deposit account No. 14-1140 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a

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representation that a search has been made [37 C.F.R. '1.97(g)], an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner [Commissioner's Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 12-25 at 25].

Respectfully submitted,
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